



SUBSTANCE ABUSE

The Marine Corps serves as the United States' 911 force, ready to fight our nation's battle at a moment's notice. In order to execute our squadron's mission when the call comes, every Marine and Sailor must be mentally and physically ready to go. Any Marine who is dependent on alcohol or drugs and is not receiving treatment becomes a liability to the squadron.

As your Commanding Officer, it is my duty to take legal action against any Marine or Sailor who uses illegal drugs or alcohol irresponsibly. Historically, abuses of alcohol and/or drug use have contributed to Marines committing egregious violations of the UCMJ such as hazing, rape or larceny. If you are underage and choose to drink or are of age and contribute alcohol to underage Marines, be prepared to face the consequences. If you give in to peer-pressure and experiment with illegal drugs, be prepared to face the consequences. I will hold any Marine accountable who chooses to break the law. As Marines, we are held to a higher standard. As your Commanding Officer, it is my responsibility to maintain the standard.

It is also my responsibility to help any Marine who seeks assistance for their alcohol or drug dependency. The road to recovery begins by speaking to our squadron Substance Abuse Counseling Officer (SACO). Any Marine or Sailor who seeks assistance for their drug or alcohol dependency can do so with the utmost confidentiality and without fear of punishment or reprisal from the chain of command.

Acting as a character witness and praising your fellow Marine and Sailor who has an alcohol or drug problem for their contributions in the work center or division at an NJP or court martial does them no good; it is too late. Help your fellow Marine or Sailor with dependency issues now by referring them to the SACO.

MTACS-18 will be ready when called upon to execute our mission. To do this, I need every Marine ready to go, drug and alcohol free.


H. E. Dowling
LtCol, USMC